

Black Activists Are FBI Targets

By Jack Anderson

The FBI is conducting systematic surveillance of black leaders, who are guilty of nothing more serious than excessive political rhetoric.

Millions of dollars have been invested in the FBI's investigation of "racial matters." But our study of the secret files indicates that the investigation has been heavily one-sided. Only the most extreme white racists have come under FBI scrutiny, but almost every prominent black leader in the country has an FBI dossier in his name. Even congressmen and Nixon-Agnew supporters, if they're black, are regarded with suspicion by the FBI.

The list of black "subversives" includes such apostles of non-violence as the late Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., his wife, Coretta Scott King; the Rev. Ralph David Abernathy; Jesse Jackson, the handsome young "country preacher" who recently started a self-help group in Chicago; Roy Wilkins, executive director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP); and Bayard Rustin, director of the A. Philip Randolph Institute.

The FBI has even zeroed in on President Nixon's most articulate black supporter, former CORE director Floyd

McKissick Jr., whose political activities have been chronicled by the FBI in a fat file.

Now director of the new town of "Soul City," N.C., McKissick made headlines when he lambasted the Democratic Party for failing to deliver "on its promises." The Nixon administration, he said, has offered more than "just the rhetoric."

Like many a white politician, McKissick has jumped the political fence. For two years earlier, he had called Mr. Nixon "one of the nation's leading proponents of 'Law and Order — Facist Style.'" McKissick's words were duly deposited in his bulging FBI dossier.

Secret Capitalist

Another entry, dated Jan. 13, 1970, is stamped "Secret—No Foreign Dissemination." One of the deep, dark secrets noted by FBI agent Thomas L. Beckwith was that McKissick "has made several speeches throughout the U.S. during 1969 wherein he advocated black capitalism..."

But far more grievous, McKissick, "in one speech stated the Black Panther Party should be supported."

FBI agents were also listening when McKissick at a black bash in Brooklyn "commented unfavorably on the fact that

this affair was held in a church, since churches are among groups infiltrated by the FBI and Central Intelligence Agency which hold the blacks down."

The federal sleuths have also been poking their noses into McKissick's financial affairs. States one entry:

"Floyd McKissick, it was learned, had recently received check Number 2666 made out in his name and drawn against the account of the Louis M. Rabinowitz Foundation, Inc., in the amount of \$2,500. This check was subsequently deposited to McKissick's account in the Freedom National Bank, Harlem, New York."

Mrs. King's Finances

The FBI has also been prying into Coretta Scott King's finances. When a documentary film about her late husband was appearing around the country, the top cops were busy counting receipts.

The movie's first run, says a confidential memo dated Aug. 5, 1970, "resulted in receipts in excess of \$2,000,000. By arrangements made prior to March 24, 1970, by Coretta Scott King and officials of the SCLC the receipts for this movie were to be divided equally between King and the SCLC."

The finances of Roy Innis,

successor to Floyd McKissick as chairman of CORE, have been meticulously catalogued, too. And Innis's file notes ominously that he has "attended marches to protest against the war in Vietnam..."

Ralph David Abernathy, successor to the martyred Dr. King, rates a file that would choke a hippopotamus. The FBI's investigators seem most intrigued over his troubles with his colleagues.

An FBI informant reported on March 6, 1970, for example that one colleague, Hosea Williams, "remarked to some associates he was rather concerned as to the cool and noticeably distant attitude recently displayed by... Abernathy."

Black artists, entertainers and sports figures, who speak up for their race, are also suspect. One of the thickest FBI files is devoted to former heavyweight champion Muhammad Ali. Actor singer Harry Belafonte and author James Baldwin are kept under surveillance, too.

The file on black comedian Dick Gregory could be measured by the pound. Author-actor-playwright Ossie Davis and his wife have been investigated numerous times. Singer Eartha Kitt is quoted as being opposed to statehood for Puerto Rico.